

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 44-59 without prejudice to continued prosecution in this or a continuing application.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub C1

60. (New) A system for transmitting laser energy to a surgical site comprising:
a laser energy source operating at a wavelength in a range of about 1.4 - 2.2 micrometers; and
an optical fiber for conducting laser energy from a proximal end of said fiber to a surgical site at a distal end of said fiber, the proximal end being coupled to the output of said laser energy source, and said fiber being a silica fiber having a low hydroxyl ion content to reduce absorption of said laser energy during transmission through said fiber.

2.
61. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source comprises a Holmium-doped Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet laser.

3.
62. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source comprises an Erbium-doped Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet laser.

4.
63. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source comprises a Holmium-doped Yttrium-Lithium-Fluoride laser.

JH

5.

64. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source comprises a Erbium-doped Yttrium-Lithium-Fluoride laser.

9.

65. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source comprises a Thulium-doped Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet laser.

10.

66. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein the laser source operates in a pulsed mode at an energy level sufficient to remove biological tissue by vaporization.

11.

67. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source operates with a pulse width of 0.2 - 5 milliseconds.

12.

68. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source operates at a repetition rate of about 1 to about 10 pulses per second.

13.

69. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source operates to deliver energy to a surgical site of at least 0.57 millijoules per pulse.

14.

70. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein the laser source operates in a continuous wave mode at an energy level sufficient to repair biological tissue.

15.

71. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein said laser source operates to deliver energy at a wavelength in a range of about 2.06 - 2.1- micrometers.